



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

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November 8, 1977

Dear Secretary Duncan:

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Ellen Frost has kindly provided me with a copy of your memorandum of October 8, 1977 to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretaries of the Military Departments asking for a thorough examination of the curricula of the various armed forces schools with a view to including more course material concerning human rights. This is a most welcome step and we shall look forward to hearing of the results when you receive the reports of the Chairman and the Secretaries. This is but the latest in a series of steps that the Department of Defense has taken to incorporate the President's human rights policies into the day-to-day activities of the Department and the Armed Forces. Although my staff here is very small indeed, please be assured that Mark Schneider, my deputy, and I and the other members of the staff are ready to help you and your people in any way we can. Currently, Mr. Ellis O. Jones, (632-2741) of my staff, is assigned a specific responsibility within the Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs for working with security assistance and other military issues.

I might add that I have several times had occasion to speak of human rights matters with officers of the armed forces, most notably at the Army War College this fall and also at Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone.

The Honorable
Charles W. Duncan, Jr.,
Deputy Secretary of Defense,
Department of Defense,
Washington, D.C.

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I have uniformly found a high and sustained, intelligent interest in the issue. I hope we can continue these dialogues at all levels.

Sincerely,

Pat Derian

Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

P.S.

*I AM
concerned still
about the problems
of arms sales &
transfers - this
is one we can't
seem to settle -*